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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

PARIS-5035
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LEMONDE DATED MAY 21 CARRIES SUBSTANCE DEPT SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT RE TACTICAL AIRCRAFT SALE TO ISRAEL. ARTICLE ALSO INCLUDES PHILIPPE BEN REPORT FROM NY THAT TRANSACTION INVOLVES 48 SKYHAWKS (WHOSE RANGE AND LOAD CAPACITIES THEN CITED) SOLD FOR PRICE WHICH "UNBEATABLE IN WEST". BEN LINKS AIRCRAFT SALE TO ISRAEL WITH US-JORDANIAN STARFIGHTER TRANSACTION: NOTES ISRAELIS ALSO "CONTINUING RECEIVE LARGE NUMBER" MIRAGE III AIRCRAFT FROM FRANCE.

MORNING PRESS EXPECTED PROVIDE FURTHER COVERAGE MAY 21.

BOHLEN
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